

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended.

Claims 1-76 are pending in the application. Claims 1-21, 23-28, 31, 33-56, 59 and 63-76 have been rejected. Claims 22, 29-30, 32, 57-58 and 60-62 have been objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent forms.

In this response, claims 15, 22, 29, 32, 55, 57, 60-62, and 75 have been amended. In addition, new claims 104-106 have been added. Thus, claims 1-76 and 104-106 remain pending. No new matter has been added.

Specifically, claims 22, 29, 32, 57, and 60-62 have been amended as independent claims including substantially all limitations of their respective base and intervening claims. New claims 104-106 include limitations similar to those recited in amended claims 22, 29, and 32 respectively. Thus, independent claims 22, 29, 32, 57, 60-62, and 104-106, as well as their associated dependent claims are allowable.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 5, 8, 11-13, 36-44, 47, 50-53, 63-64, 67 and 70-73 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,974,181 to Prieto ("Prieto"). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-2, 5, 8, 11-13, 36-44, 47, 50-53, 63-64, 67 and 70-73 include limitations that are not disclosed by Prieto and thus are not anticipated by Prieto.

Specifically, for example, independent claim 1 includes characterizing quantization noise in reconstructed data generated in response to application of an inverse wavelet transform and removing the quantization noise from the reconstructed data during the decoding. It is respectfully submitted that these limitations are absent from Prieto.

Rather, Prieto discloses separation of quantization noise during the encoding phase, instead of decoding phase as required in claim 1, particularly, in response to an inverse wavelet transform. Specifically, Prieto states:

"A data compression system 200, method, and apparatus 214 employs an encoder 210 optimized to decorrelate and make independent from the original signal 202, the

quantization noise produced during signal compression. The proposed system 200, method, and apparatus 214 supports high degrees of signal compression, which in turn leads to lower computational complexity and improved performance. Because the quantization noise produced during signal compression is made independent from and non-orthogonal (i.e., uncorrelated) to the original signal 202, enhanced filtering is achievable, which in turn leads to improvements in the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) of the decoder 220.”

(Prieto, Abstract, emphasis added)

“As will be appreciated by those skilled in the art, after further review hereof, quantization encoder 214 employs first and second quantization stages in order to compress the wavelet transformed signal received from wavelet transform stage 212. As will be discussed in detail in association with FIG. 4, the first quantization stage compresses the wavelet transformed signal and produces compression/quantization noise components, correlated to an non-linearly dependent upon the input signal 202. The second quantization stage compresses an error signal difference between the wavelet transformed signal and an estimate of the quantization noise components to produce noise components independent from the image signal. The purpose of isolating such noise components; namely, those independent from the image signal, is to pursue aggressive filtering techniques that improve reconstructed signal quality, without negatively impacting the desired image signal components. This is especially important when short vector lengths and small code books are employed during image reconstruction.”

(Prieto, col. 4, lines 9-27, emphasis added)

Thus, the noise components are generated during an encoding phase and the operations are performed in response to a result of wavelet transform, rather than an inverse wavelet transform as required by claim 1. It appears that Prieto teaches away, rather than towards, the present invention as claimed.

In order to anticipate a claim, each and every limitations of the claim must be taught by the cited reference. It is respectfully submitted that Prieto fails to disclose each and every limitations of claim 1. Therefore, independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Prieto.

Similarly, independent claims 43, 63, and 76 include limitations similar to those recited in claim 1. Thus, for the reasons similar to those set forth above, independent claims 43, 63, and 76 are not anticipated by Prieto.

Claim 76 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,985,632 to Sato, et al. ("Sato"). For the reasons similar to those set forth above, as well as those set forth in the previous response, independent claim 76 is not anticipated by Sato.

The Examiner rejected claims 8 and 50 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Prieto and Sato. Claims 3-4, 6-7, 9-10, 14, 35, 45-46, 48-49, 54, 65-66, 68-69 and 74 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prieto. Claims 15-21, 23-28, 31, 55-56, 59 and 75 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Prieto and Sato.

These claims depend from one of the above independent claims. Therefore, for the reasons similar to those set forth above, these claims are patentable over the cited references. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

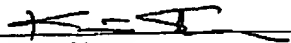
In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits the present application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (408) 720-8300.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any shortage of fees in connection with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

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